

THE SCHLEY INQUIRY

The Deadly Parallel Showing the Points at Issue.

THE VICTOR OF SANTIAGO,

However, Has Secured a Verdict in the Hearts and Conscience of the American People Which Neither Court, Claque, Nor Faction Can Change, Modify, or Obliterate—The Sampson Vanity and Crownshield Envy.

The gallant American sailor, Winfield Scott Schley, will soon be on trial for his reputation by his enemies in the Navy Department. The Court of Inquiry is composed of honorable, and we hope, unprejudiced men, who will, we again hope, try this matter fairly, uninfluenced by the clique, of which it is universally accepted Admiral Crownshield is the inspiration and the active leader. The vanity of Admiral Sampson, in claiming a memorable victory to which he contributed at the utmost but one of several plans of battle to meet emergencies which might arise, might have been charitably forgotten or condoned by the generous American people if he had, in his dispatch announcing the destruction of the Spanish fleet, given proper credit to the valiant and vigilant sailor who immediately commanded in the great action our country's fighting ships. But when, to this vanity and manifestation of an un-American spirit, is added the gross and indecent insinuations of a hired historian to stigmatize with cowardice the brave gentleman and Southerner who won the fight, the indignation of the American people calls for not alone the vindication of Schley but the punishment of those who are the authors, the instigators and approvers of such gross, lying and infamous libels upon an American sailor.

That our readers may have a thorough understanding of the charges and points raised by the enemies of Admiral Schley, we present in parallel columns the precept issued by the Secretary of the Navy for the Board of Inquiry, and the replies made to the charges by Admiral Schley in the past, as follows:

THE PRECEPT.

1. His conduct in connection with the events of the Santiago campaign.

2. The circumstances attending the reasons controlling and the propriety of the movements of the flying squadron off Cienfuegos in May, 1898.

3. The circumstances attending the reasons controlling and the propriety of the movements of the said squadron in proceeding from Cienfuegos to Santiago.

4. The circumstances attending the arrival of the flying squadron off Santiago, the reasons for its retrograde turn westward and departure from off Santiago, and the propriety thereof.

5. The circumstances attending the reasons for the disobedience by Commodore Schley of the orders of the Department contained in its dispatch dated May 25, 1898, and the propriety of his conduct in the premises.

6. The condition of the coal supply of the flying squadron at that time, May 27, 1898, its coaling facilities, the necessity, if any, for, or advisability of the return of the squadron to Key West to coal, and the accuracy and propriety of the official reports made by Commodore Schley with respect to this matter.

7. Whether or not every effort incumbent upon the commanding officer of a fleet under such circumstances was made to capture or destroy the Spanish cruiser Colon as she lay at anchor in the entrance to Santiago harbor May 31 to 31, inclusive, and the necessity, if any, for, or advisability of, engaging the batteries at the entrance to Santiago harbor, and the Spanish vessels at anchor within the entrance to said harbor, at the ranges used, and the propriety of Commodore Schley's conduct in the premises.

8. The necessity, if any, for, or advisability of, withdrawing at night the flying squadron from the entrance to Santiago harbor to a distance at sea, if such shall be found to have been the case; the extent and character of such withdrawal, and whether or not a close or adequate lookout of said harbor, to prevent the escape of the enemy's vessels therefrom, was established, and the propriety of Commodore Schley's conduct in the premises.

9. The position of the Brooklyn on the morning of July 3, 1898, at the time of the exit of the Spanish vessels from the entrance to Santiago, and the circumstances attending the reasons for, and the incidents resulting from the turning of the Brooklyn in the direction which she turned at or about the beginning of the action with said Spanish vessels, and the possibility of thereby colliding with or endangering any other of the vessels of the United States fleet, and the propriety of Commodore Schley's conduct in the premises.

SCHLEY'S REPLIES.

1. An affirmation that Rear Admiral Schley's conduct was in line with his duties as a gentleman and an officer.

2. Admiral Schley remained at Cienfuegos instead of moving to Santiago under general instructions from the Department to remain there until satisfied that Cervera's squadron was not there. He was not furnished with the code of signals whereby he could have ascertained that fact, and when furnished it moved rapidly to Santiago.

3. Admiral Schley met him the Eagle and the collier Merrimac on his way from Cienfuegos to Santiago, and this being a slow boat retarded his movements. He had to stop to repair the Merrimac several times. These vessels were assigned to him by Admiral Sampson and he could not abandon them.

4. Schley was informed by Sigbee, Jewell and Wise, who had been at Santiago for a week, that they had not seen Cervera's squadron and was also informed by his pilot. The sea and weather prevented coaling. The ship started toward Key West, but finding that he could coal later, did coal and returned to Santiago.

5. Admiral Schley was instructed that the Navy Department believed Cervera was at Santiago and looked to him to ascertain the fact and to see that Cervera did not leave without doing active action. Schley telegraphed that the Merrimac, his collier, was dis-

abled; that he was unable to coal the Texas, Marblehead, Vixen and Brooklyn, owing to a very rough sea, and could not remain on that account. In his dispatch he said: "Much to be regretted, can not obey orders of Department."

6. Admiral Schley said he would need 10,000 tons of coal on arriving at Key West from Santiago. The coaling facilities were a broken down collier, and with no other base of supplies Key West was the proper station. Admiral Schley's report, he being on the scene, can not be attacked for accuracy and propriety.

7. The Cristobal Colon lay well up in the harbor, and not at the entrance, Schley made a reconnaissance on the afternoon of May 31 with the Massachusetts, Iowa and New Orleans to develop the fortifications and their character, his intention being to destroy the Colon promptly. His fire was returned by heavy batteries east and west of the entrance, by large calibre and long-range guns. After this reconnaissance the Colon retreated into the harbor behind the land. Schley fired at 7,000 yards range on account of the land batteries.

8. The Colon, having disappeared, and the strength and danger of the batteries having been determined, Rear Admiral Schley withdrew out of range, still remaining a blockade of the port without the risk of disabling his squadron. At the time of the withdrawal the Brooklyn was in the harbor with his force of reconnaissance, but were coaling in the offing.

9. The turn of the Brooklyn, or the loop, was ordered by Captain Cook, as a matter of tactical judgment. In his official report he explains it simply, thus: "We opened fire on the leading ship in five minutes from the discovery (that they were coming out). The port battery was first engaged, as we stood with port helm to head off the leading ship and giving them a raking fire at about 1,500 yards range. The enemy turned to the westward to close into the land. We then were around to starboard, bringing the starboard battery into action. The enemy hugged the shore to the westward. The Brooklyn, leading, was followed by the Texas, Iowa, Oregon, Indiana and Gloucester." The Secretary of the Navy, it will be shown, never criticized the loop of the Brooklyn. Captain Phillips of the Texas does not allege that there was any danger to his ship or any others from the turn of the Brooklyn. He does say, however, that his fire was for a while blanketed by the Oregon.

10. It will be shown that there was no personal or official impropriety in Admiral Schley calling on Lieutenant Alton C. Hodgson, navigator of the Brooklyn, to disprove a statement derogatory to the Admiral, namely that he (Schley) said he was too near the Spaniards, that he gave orders to get out of the way, and that he said: "Damn the Texas, let her take care of herself." This reported language of Admiral Schley was investigated, under orders from Sampson, by Captain Hadwick, and no action was taken, although Lieutenant Helmer, navigator of the Texas, stated that Hodgson said Schley used the language attributed to him.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

The Murder Manifesto Issued by the Tory Government on the Same Plan as Was Put in Use in Our Revolution by Their Ancestors—An Honest Englishman Declares the Boer Right.

This Government are either the biggest set of liars in the country or they display an incompetent indifference to the fortunes of war so appalling, in view of their responsibilities, as to be criminal. Questioned in the House of Commons by members as to what is taking place at the front, they always reply that "they have no information."

This is simply the evasion of cowards and sneaks. They know very well that things are going badly at the front, and that the condition of affairs in Cape Colony is so serious as to amount to a national danger. But their policy all along has been to conceal from the public the effects of their gross incompetence. The military correspondents whose letters we publish from week to week, lift the veil slightly, but the terrible truth probably will never be fully known.

THE PRECEPT.

One fact, however, has come to light. This atrocious gang, who have so misdirected the war, and brought so many humiliating defeats upon the British arms, are going to sanction slavery in South Africa—these pursued "tribes," one of whose devices was to inflame prejudice by pretending that the Boers were exceptionally unkind to their black subjects. Chamberlain announces that the blacks in future, are not to be lashed for being without a pass—you see, under British rule the blacks are not to be allowed to go from place to place without a pass—they are only to be scourged if they are found in possession of somebody else's pass. And this Pass Law is to extend to our Indian fellow-subjects, whose country we rob and misgovern, where thousands are still dying of famine without a word of sympathy in this country from anybody, lay or cleric. We can not govern India; we can not govern Ireland; it is likely we shall be able to govern the stout burghers whom we have been unable to defeat, although all told, we have sent against them 400,000 men, including thousands of the black subjects of the Transvaal whom we have armed. There are 300,000 troops in South Africa to conquer those whom Chamberlain calls "brigands"—the "brigands" have captured an English post, and we show in another place that the British casualties week by week exceed those summarized in Kitchener's cattle-raiding catalogue—and every day almost we are sending out fresh reinforcements.

THE PRECEPT.

The United and Independent Government are now leading a murder hunt against the Boers, and are sending out fresh reinforcements. The British have been executing Cape rebels. The Transvaal Republic are not to execute the rebels in their country. Such are the ideas of British honor, under the rule of the financiers who now direct the affairs of this country. If this is done, we can easily foresee what will happen. There will be reprisals. The numerous English prisoners whom the Boers capture will be executed. This will give the "Financiers" Government an excuse for indiscriminate slaughter. The policy of extermination which, practiced in Ireland, has brought upon England the undying hatred of the Irish race, will have a similar response in the case of the Dutch races. Our "tribes" are only beginning in South Africa; they may end by the hanging of some of the scoundrels, political and financial, who have been responsible for this wholly unnecessary war, except in so far as loot was its object. That seems to be the modern notion of the mission of the English race—LOOT!

THE PRECEPT.

The determination to permit no discussion on over a hundred votes for the public service, involving an expenditure of £70,000,000 of taxes is the beginning of a new era. Parliament may as well not meet, but leave to the Cecil brood, and the promoters of companies who are their masters, the direction of public affairs.

The people at large will be just as happy that way, as in any other. Multitudes of them have shown themselves in recent years unworthy of liberty. It has been the secret policy of the Tories and their clerical allies to brutalize the people in order the more easily to govern them in the interests of the classes. And all the while these cunning conspirators have been singing the praises of their own country, which the whole world has been condemning. And with reason. For the world can say: "You psalm-singing, canting lot—what other nation has so many paupers? What other nation has so many ignorant and drunken women? What other nation is so badly loused as yours? What other nation has permitted itself to be driven from the land? You month of liberty, where you have none, for your puppet representatives are controlled by a hereditary Chamber of Landlords. Fraud and hypocrite, cease bragging! Leave off sending missionaries abroad, and attend to your sages at home. Commit no more murders for the purpose of theft, nor lie brazenly that you are civilizing and Christianizing. Civilization and Christianity are what are most lacking among your own people, who are the least educated among the great nations of the world."

Those people will be whipped with scorpions before many months are over. And we shall not regret it. They require a much-needed lesson. And now that the Government has shown the way to anarchy, by the methods in securing the employment with Mr. Davis, and this favor I made up my mind to reciprocate by bringing him and his wife together. That there was a tie between Miss Lybrand and him I realized, and determined to call on the lady, tell her that Stivers was married, and ask her assistance in what I considered a laudable undertaking. How well I succeeded I shall endeavor they have chosen, so shall they be

THE PRECEPT.

These Take the Cake for Original and Unique Given Names.

The most curious name, perhaps, ever bestowed upon a girl is that of Ailsa and Grace. She is now about three years old, her name being registered at Somerset House, London, in 1898, when she was baptized. What she will think of these cognomens when she arrives at maturity is difficult to say. Her sister's name is equally as unique—Nun Nicer. When Ailsa and Grace and Nun Nicer arrive at the age of maturity at least one of them should marry a youth whose Christian name compares favorably, for example: Acts of the Apostles. This is a name found on an English parish register. Acts apostle, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Pecklen, was baptized August 2, 1795. Again this name figures in records in 1833, when Acts of the Apostles, son of Richard and Phebe Kennett, was baptized. This name, curious as it is, is preferable to what our Dutch friends have named their children. Her sister's name is equally as unique—Nun Nicer. 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